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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

RE: Conversation with Ted Sorenson

Ted telephoned from Paris this afternoon and reports that after talking with a lot of different people, he feels that with luck the Paris meeting should go very well. He urges that we plan to talk with him and review the draft speeches during the hour which you have free at the Quai d'Orsay after you get in from the Airport.

As he reads it, de Gaulle will be interested primarily in three things:

1. The problem of consultation and joint decision, which he will wait for you to open -- the Foreign Office people tell Ted that the French position has been plain since September 1958 and Couve has told the working press in Paris that the two countries are now much closer on this issue.
2. Berlin. This is confirmed by all the cables and evidently what the General wants is to be sure that we are as determined as he on this one.
3. General reassurances. Our new emphasis on new conventional weapons is a worry; are we determined to maintain the nuclear strength on the continent and use it? Are you personally the man to deal with Khrushchev? Is the United States really mature? etc.

Ted says that de Gaulle may talk about the Common Market and Algeria but that you should not open either subject.

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Finally, he warns of the very tricky possibilities in your meeting with the press, where there will be questions. He says that we should be prepared particularly on the question of exactly what the United States did and did not do at the time of the Challe revolt, and I have the documents on that.

The weather in Paris is excellent.

h. f. G.

McG. B.